GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:809
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
TRIALS OF KAVERI ENGINE FOR FLIGHT TEST BED
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether flight test bed of Kaveri Engine was assigned to centre for Air Borne Systems on the recommendations of the Aero-Engine Development Board at a total cost of 5.25 million US dollar, equivalent to Rs. 18.50 crore;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in its Report No.8 of 2002 (Air Force and Navy) on page 32 in para 21 has brought out the fact that the contract concluded in December 1996 was premature and led to an additional expenditure of Rs. 7.36 crore;

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been made for concluding premature contract;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken to fix the accountability and responsibility of the persons responsible for causing financial loss to the State; and

(f) the steps taken to streamline the working of the defence headquarters?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) had stated that concluding a contract for Flight Test Bed (FTB) of Kaveri with Russia in 1996 was premature. Since the FTB trial programme involves considerable R&D effort, design and integration work, it requiresa sufficient lead time. There was no possibility of checking the mechanical interfaces unless Kaveri Engine was fitted with the flight test bed. The contract was essential and it was signed at right time for facilitating upfront activities.

(c) to (f): Does not arise.